



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Hon. Harry J. Tutunjian

mayorsoffice@troyny.gov

518.270.4401

fax 518.270.4609

www.troyny.gov

Tutunjian Makes Move to Strengthen Ticket Enforcement

For Immediate Release

Contact Jeff Buell (518)-270-4554

(May 20, 2004- TROY) After discovering Troy has lost more than \$275,000 since January of 2003, Mayor Harry Tutunjian announced Thursday his intention to begin prosecuting parking tickets by the City's Corporation Counsel Office immediately.

Tutunjian's administration recently uncovered an alarming fact concerning the dismissal of parking tickets. Since last January, more than \$275,000 worth of parking tickets have been dismissed because of lack of prosecution.

Under the administration of former Mayor Mark Pattison, those who filed protests against parking tickets had the fine dismissed because the City did not prosecute the protest.

"More than a quarter of a million dollars is a tremendous amount of money considering the tough fiscal times we are in," Tutunjian said. "The administration of Mark Pattison did not see it fit to prosecute parking tickets, and as a result we have lost a considerable financial windfall. We have now taken the necessary steps to change the process to ensure City laws are being held up."

Over the same time period since January of 2003, the City has collected \$476,680 worth of parking tickets, meaning more than a third of the tickets written were dismissed.

"These are parking tickets we're talking about, not actual crimes. Numbers like that do not send a strong message to people that we are serious about enforcing the laws we have," Tutunjian said. "By bringing the parking ticket enforcement into the Corporation's Counsel Office, it will allow us to keep tighter reigns on what is being dismissed, and why."

Corporation Counsel David Mitchell will take on the new duties in the near future.

"David is a former village court judge and currently prosecutes vehicle and traffic tickets in Troy. I am confident he will be both strict and fair," Tutunjian said. "I believe that is the best we can provide the residents of our great City."